



Calculation of the Coupling Coefficient in Step-Index Multimode Polymer Optical Fibers Based on the Far-Field Measurements

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Using the power flow equation (PFE), this article investigates mode coupling in step-index (SI) multimode (MM) polymer optical fiber (POF). This equation's coupling coefficient was initially fine-tuned so that it could appropriately reconstruct previously recorded far-field (FF) power distributions. The equilibrium mode distribution (EMD) and steady-state distribution (SSD) in the SI MM POF were found to be obtained at lengths $L_c = 15$ m and $z_s = 41$ m, respectively. These lengths are substantially shorter than their glass optical fiber counterparts. Such characterization of the investigated POF can be used in its employment as a part of the communication or sensory system. Namely, the POF's bandwidth is inverse linear function of fiber length (z^{-1}) below the coupling length L_c . However, it has a $z^{-1/2}$ dependence beyond this equilibrium length. Thus, the shorter the coupling length L_c , the sooner transition to the regime of slower bandwidth decrease occurs. It is also important to be able to determine a modal distribution at a certain length of the POF employed as a part of optical fiber sensory system.

Keywords: polymer optical fiber, modal distribution, coupling length, bandwidth, distance dependence, sensory system

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